

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd December 1899.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 11th December has the following from its Persian correspondent in continuation of what he wrote in a previous issue of the paper (*vide* Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the 9th December, paragraph 8):—

Foreigners in Persia.

HABLUL MATEEN,
Dec. 11th, 1899.

In the meantime, the shopkeeper and another innocent man were arrested by the order of the German Ambassador and brought before him. The *Hakim* of Shimran at last appeared on the scene to make a personal enquiry into the matter. The enquiry over, he called at the German Embassy and found its occupants all drunk. The following dialogue then took place between the German Ambassador and the *Hakim* of Shimran:—

The Hakim:—Why have you arrested two innocent men?

German Ambassador:—Because two Persian rustics have knocked the head of one of the free-booters (*kazaks*) in my service. I have arrested them and will punish them instead of those who committed the mischief.

The Hakim:—Those rustics are innocent. They, in self-defence, broke the head of the free-booters, who on a night preceding a Friday, *i.e.*, a day held sacred by the people of Persia, went to desecrate a sacred place with their unclean feet.

Ambassador:—The free-booters are my employés and can do any mischief they choose. You Persians cannot oppose them.

The Hakim:—I am the proper authority to take action in the matter. Granted that your men were right and the rustics in the wrong, what right had you to go to the bazar and threaten some shopkeepers with death? Your conduct is clearly unlawful, and it appears that you wish to interfere in the internal administration of the country. The proper course for you in this matter was to bring the case to the notice of the Persian Minister of Foreign Affairs and also to communicate the matter to me. If you had been put to death in the affray, your death would have gone unrevenged.

Ambassador (after a pause):—You talk nonsense. I give you time till to-morrow noon for bringing the offending rustics to me, failing which, you shall be reported against to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Hakim:—I am ready to help you, but I think that those rustics have absconded.

Ambassador:—There is no other alternative.

Dialogue over, the *Hakim* retired. The same day the matter was brought to the notice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who made necessary enquiries and submitted a report to the German Embassy. The next day the *Hakim* was brought to the German Ambassador, and the following dialogue ensued between him and the head of the free-booters in the service of the German Ambassador.

The head of the free-booters (assuming an angry look):—Why did you beat my men?

The Hakim:—The matter has been brought to the notice of the Ambassador.

Head:—I shall not tell you anything now. I have come to take you to the Russian Chief.

The Hakim:—How can I believe it?

(Before the Russian Chief.)

Head:—I will not allow you to sit near the interpreter.

The Hakim:—I have every right to sit.

Head:—Certainly not. You have forfeited your honour by ill-treating my men.

The Hakim:—Then I must remain standing.

The *Hakim* really degraded his position as a Persian official by going to the German Embassy. He should have refused to go when he was called by the German Ambassador. The *Hakim* should thank himself for his humiliation. The ill-treatment which the Persians are receiving at the hands of foreigners is partly due to the incompetency of Persian officials and partly to the weak-

ness and inefficiency of the heads of the administration. They take great pride in paying visits to *feringis*. They do not take steps to prevent foreigners from encroaching upon their powers. They are under the delusion that the neighbouring Powers are friendly to them and are true to the promise made by them.

HABUL MATEEN,
Dec. 11th, 1899.

2. The same paper writes that the European Powers are still neutral in the Transvaal War, but are jubilant over the British reverses. At the outset England did not think that the campaign against the 'Transvaal' would prove so difficult an affair. She was confident of crushing the Boers easily, but she is now sorry for her mistake. Peace cannot be effected without satisfying Boer demands, and England has been compelled to prosecute the war. The Boers will not make peace unless they are compelled to do so. Since the Fashoda affair, France is longing to be revenged upon England. Russia looks upon the Transvaal War as an opportunity for establishing her supremacy in China and India.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

3. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th December has the following:—

Indian feeling in the Transvaal War.

The Musalmans in their *musjids* and the Hindus in their temples are praying for English victory in the Transvaal War. In every province the Indians are raising subscriptions for the families of the English soldiers killed in action. If the English Government had resolved to send Indian troops to the Transvaal Indians would have come forward in large numbers to enlist themselves as soldiers. So great is Indian loyalty, but the Indian officials question its sincerity. Australia and Canada have helped England with a handful of soldiers, and the English press is loud in praise of their loyalty. But Indians are sacrificing their lives for England, thinking England's danger as their own, and yet English officials and English editors cannot confide in Indian loyalty. Prayer and worship, *pūja* and *namaz*, giving away of money and life, all have been in vain.

SANJIVANI.

4. The same paper, which contains portraits of President Kruger and his wife, has the following:—
President Kruger was standing at the door of his house when the English prisoners from Ladysmith, guarded by Boer soldiers, were passing. The President did not exult at the sight of these prisoners and, though the head of the Transvaal Republic, uncovered his head to do honour to them. The prisoners saluted him in return. How many are there in this world who can show so much courtesy to a fallen enemy? President Kruger is well known for his courtesy and religiousness.

As for his consort, she is a model wife, a model mother, a model housewife, and a model neighbour.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

5. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th December has the following:—

Indian refugees from the Transvaal.

The *Bombay Gazette* has the following in a telegram from its London correspondent:—"Over one hundred Indian coolies, whom Sir George White has refused to admit into Ladysmith, have arrived at Frere, after enduring terrible suffering. They will be sent to Durban."

In South Africa, all Indians are called coolies, and no distinction is made between a well-to do Indian gentleman and an Indian labourer. It is, therefore, difficult to ascertain whether all the Indians spoken of above are coolies or not. These Indian refugees from the Transvaal, after enduring terrible suffering, went to Ladysmith in the hope of finding a shelter there. They thought that they had no political connection with the Boers, and half-civilised as the Boers were, it was no wonder that they should ill-treat them. But the English were civilised and were their rulers. The English Government had spent Indian money for the consolidation of British influence in Natal, and it was Indian money with which South Africa had been conquered. They had, therefore, no doubt that the British General at Ladysmith would give them shelter and protection—the British General who had long been in the pay of India. But they were sorely disappointed. The sight of

their suffering did not move the heart of Sir George White and he refused them admission into Ladysmith.

These unfortunate Indians will most probably be sent back to India. Natal is a British possession. It is for the British colonists of Cape Colony, of which Natal is a province, that England has entered upon this war with the Transvaal, and England's heroic soldiers are laying down their lives in hundreds and thousands. England is the mistress of India, and yet in an English possession the Indians are as ill-treated as in the Transvaal. What a regret!

6. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 17th December writes as follows:—

British reverses in the Boer War.

It is no little disappointment to us that we have not yet been able to convey to our readers happy news regarding the war. The English people, whose prowess and intelligence have established a world-wide empire, who levelled the pride of martial France to dust, who have always successfully stood in the way of Russia carrying out her warlike designs, are now being beaten at every step by a handful of Boers—by the inhabitants of such a small country as the Transvaal. This has surprised the world, but has given us great pain and serious cause for anxiety. It is certainly not good for India that the nation, the betrayal of whose weakness will be a signal for Russia to exert her power to the utmost to carry out her design against India, should give proofs of weakness. But Fate is inexorable, and she can make the impossible possible. The news of British reverses in the Transvaal War has reached the ears of our enemies, and it is no use suppressing it.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 17th, 1899.

At Ladysmith nine hundred and fifty British soldiers surrendered to the Boers in a most cowardly manner and gave up to them their arms. And shortly after this surrender, General Gatacre marched from his camp to surprise and storm the Boer position at Stormberg. The British artillery opened a deadly fire, but the Boer guns responded with a deadlier effect and checked the progress of the British force. General Gatacre had to retire with the enemy on his flanks. In this action 672 British soldiers and nine British officers had to surrender to the Boers with five guns. It is a great shame that so many British soldiers capitulated for fear of their lives.

7. The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 18th December writes as follows:—

The Transvaal War.

The Transvaal War is dragging its slow length along. The British Government should try to conclude a peace with the Transvaal. For if the war is continued, complications may arise between England and some other European Power jealous of British supremacy, although there are still no signs of such complications arising. The well-wishers of the British Government are of opinion that if the Boers come out victorious, some other Power may venture to assume a hostile attitude towards England. To prevent this the war should be brought to an end.

HABLUL MATEEN,
Dec. 18th, 1899.

Russia, Germany and France are not openly helping the Boers, but are no doubt secretly instigating and encouraging them. They will go on secretly encouraging the Boers so long as England does not interfere.

If England has to fear any Power, it is Persia. Persia is close to India and there is no other State between the two countries. But Persia always likes peace and does not like to put friendly Powers to trouble.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a).—Police.

8. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th December has the following:—

Interference with a Sankirtan procession in Cachar.

A correspondent, writing in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, says that the Police Superintendent of Cachar acted highhandedly with reference to a Sankirtan party in Silchar town. On the occasion of the *Kurukshetra Yog* the local Hindus had arranged for a Sankirtan procession and procured a pass from the Vice-Chairman of the local municipality. When the procession was out, the Police Superintendent sent some constables to disperse it. The processionists brought this matter to the notice of the Vice-Chairman, and on his

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

writing to the Police Superintendent about the matter, the latter said that he had stopped the *Sankirtan*, because it was carried on up to 3 A.M. It is, however, said that the *Sankirtan* was not carried on beyond the time fixed in the pass. The next day the processionists procured a pass from the Vice-Chairman with permission for music up to 11 P.M. But when the procession came out, the Assistant Commissioner ordered the police to take away the pass from the processionists. As the Deputy Commissioner was away from the town, a local pleader went to the Assistant Commissioner, who said that as he was in charge of the town for the time being, he must put down these cries and "infernal" music. He, however, changed his mind when he came to know that the procession would not pass through the European quarter.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

9. A correspondent, writing in the same paper, complains of oppression by *badmashes* in the villages of Navagram, Nali and others, in the Munshiganj subdivision of the Dacca district. These *badmashes* have formed themselves into a gang and the peace and honour of the villagers are in danger. The other day they committed a brutal assault on the female members of a respectable family. It is said that some rich and influential people of these villages are supporting this gang and are its leaders. The support they lend to the gang has made it an object of terror and the oppressed people have not the courage to complain against them for fear of creating a scandal and of being further molested by the gang. It is, however, a matter of congratulation that the Subdivisional Officer is, in the present case, personally enquiring into the matter. It will be a great discredit to the Subdivisional Officer and a stain on British rule if the offenders are not brought to justice after they have committed such a brutal outrage in a village so close to the subdivisional head-quarters.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

A case of fraudulent cooly recruitment.

10. A correspondent complains in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th December that one Kusum, a young woman of twenty-six of Atbhoara, within the jurisdiction of the Nuthana, in the Manbhum district, was fraudulently recruited and sent up to a tea garden in Assam on July last. Muchiram, the husband of the woman, on making an enquiry, was informed by the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara that his wife had been sent up as a cooly to the Jokai tea garden in Lakshmipur. Muchiram wrote to the Deputy Commissioner of Lakshmipur about his wife's release, but no reply came from him. The Deputy Commissioner of Dhubri wrote that the woman could be released from her contract on the payment of Rs. 155—10. Muchiram, who is a poor man, could not of course afford to pay such a large amount. He, therefore, wrote to the Deputy Commissioner, complaining that his wife had been fraudulently recruited, and wanted to know the name of the recruiter, so that he might take proceedings against him. No reply has come to this letter, and a letter written by Muchiram's *mukhtar* also remains unanswered.

The Editor calls the attention of the Deputy Commissioner to this case. He fails to understand why the Deputy Commissioner should not take steps to rescue the poor woman if it is true that she has been fraudulently recruited.

HITAVADI.

11. The same paper complains of the ravages of a tiger in Khanchi, a village in the Tamluk subdivision of the Midnapore district. The tiger has killed dogs, cattle and a girl. The Raja of Mahishadal sent elephants and *shikaris*, but they have failed to kill the animal. The people are panic-stricken.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
1 ec. 12th, 1896.

12. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th December has the following:—

Refusal of bail in a case in Mymensingh.

One Majlis Khan was committed to the Sessions on the charge of murdering one Sabu Mahmud Chaukidar. The Sessions Judge twice refused applications for bail, although it was urged on behalf of the accused that there was not sufficient evidence against him. At his trial he was unanimously found not guilty by the jury and was discharged. If accused people are enlarged on bail, when it is possible to so enlarge them, according to the circumstances of the cases, they will not have to unnecessarily rot in *hajat*.

13. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th December has the following:—

The Norton case and the Rawalpindi case contrasted.

Prince Mirza was warned and his companion fined Rs. 50 for whipping Mr. Norton. This sentence has been enhanced by the Calcutta High Court. In Rawalpindi a native gentleman went to the station platform, with a platform ticket, to see one of his female relatives off. At the entrance to the platform, a European ticket inspector refused to let him come by that gate. On his remonstrating with the inspector he was thrashed. The police arrested the offender and sent him up for trial. The Court tried the case summarily and let off the accused with a fine of Rs. 5, without even calling for medical evidence. This offence as well as that of Prince Mirza was committed in public, but there is a difference in the punishment meted out in the two cases. The white men are the Brahmans of the *Kali Yug*.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

14. The same paper complains that the Subdivisional Officer of Barasat,

The Subdivisional Officer of Barasat in a cooly case.

in the 24-Parganas district, did not arrest or punish those cooly recruiters who were discovered at the Naihati Station of the Eastern Bengal State Railway taking some female coolies to Assam against their will. It is a regret that neither the provisions of the Cooly Act nor the provisions of the Penal Code are enforced against dishonest cooly recruiters. Here were four innocent women fraudulently recruited and booked for Assam against their will. These cooly recruiters were clearly guilty under the Indian Penal Code. But the Deputy Magistrate of Barasat is such a great friend of the recruiters that he did not even order their arrest. One of these recruiters, named Matabadan, had been arrested by the police at Naihati, but the Deputy Magistrate did not bring him to justice. He satisfied himself only with making the offenders pay for the return journey of the coolies. It is on account of such sympathy shown by the Courts in many instances that offending recruiters are not punished. This is why people are abducting men and women with impunity and are carrying on their nefarious trade even under British rule.

SANJIVANI.

The Deputy Magistrate of Barasat has been clearly guilty of an unjust act. If he had punished Matabadan, many recruiters of his type would have been prevented from committing such oppression. Will the Government call for an explanation from the Deputy Magistrate as to why he did not try to punish the offenders in this case?

The Government has made many excellent provisions for the protection of the coolies, but through the fault of its executive officers they have virtually become a dead letter. Many Government officers are going against the coolies instead of protecting them. It is even said that some officials are fattening on money received from recruiters. The Government can easily ascertain whether this is true or not. We have many proofs of the sympathy of some railway officers with the recruiters. A snare has been laid to catch innocent uncivilised people, and the Government alone can rescue them from this snare.

15. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th December learns from the *Pratod*

A newspaper editor compelled by a Magistrate to apologise.

newspaper that the District Magistrate of Kolaba in the Bombay Presidency summoned the editor of the *Sudhar*, a vernacular newspaper, to his presence and compelled him to apologise for animadverting on the conduct of Mr. Campbell, a plague officer in Dharwar, in an article headed "Whom shall we believe?" It is said that the Magistrate even went the length of dictating the terms of the apology to the editor. Under what law did the Magistrate act in this way? If there had been anything objectionable in the article in question, the editor could have been prosecuted. It is not right that the conductors of newspapers should be gagged and compelled to apologise in this way. But everything is possible in Bombay.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

16. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 15th December has the following:—

Mr. Pennell's transfer.

The *Indian Mirror* says that the allegation made by some of our contemporaries that Mr. Pennell was transferred to Noakhali for his decision in the Narsingh case is quite unfounded, and that his transfer has nothing to do with that case, Mr. Pennell being transferred in the ordinary course of business. We are glad to hear this. The Government, it is said, is pleased with Mr. Pennell's moral courage and love of truth.

PARTIKAR,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

SAMAY,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

17. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 15th December has the following:—

The Chapra case.

Mr. Pennell's decision in the Narsingh case clearly shows how the fusion of the executive and judicial functions has become a fruitful source of oppression and miscarriage of justice. It cannot be said that instances of graver miscarriage of justice do not take place in the mufassal. But in this case there is a combination, a combination of the mysterious with the capricious, an auspicious 'pentarchial' combination of Commissioner, Magistrate, Police Superintendent, Engineer and Civil Surgeon. Such a combination rarely takes place. Such an incident is certainly one which was never before heard or thought of. This incident shows how the gods in the mufassal, great and small, amuse themselves. We hope that the conduct of the Chapra officials will not be allowed to be forgotten. The late Mr. Manmohan Ghosh wrote a pamphlet on the trial of Muluk Chand, and made the doings of the Indian police known to the people of England. It will not be too much to hope that a high-minded writer will come forward to follow in the footsteps of Mr. Ghosh and make the doings of the Chapra authorities known to the English public. This may or may not do any immediate good to the country, but it will at least have the effect of opening the eyes of the English people to the evil of entrusting one and the same person with both judicial and executive functions and to the distinction of creed and colour which is made in the administration of justice. The English public will then be able to decide for themselves whether there is real cause for the discontent of the Indian people. The Chapra case should be taken up for discussion at the next meeting of the Congress.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Dec. 20th, 1899.

18. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

A Magistrate's trial of a cooly case.

20th December says that one Bimala, a female cooly in an Assam tea garden, was indicted before a Magistrate on the charge of having fled from the garden before the expiry of the term of her contract. On the day of hearing, Bimala submitted a petition through her *mukhtar*, praying for a postponement on the ground that her witnesses were not present, and that she wanted to prove by medical evidence that she was a minor. The Magistrate refused the prayer and passed the following order:—"I myself can determine her age. In my opinion she is nineteen or twenty. No more time will be allowed, as the case has been going on for a long time. She could have brought her witnesses to-day." Then he passed the following judgment:—"The contract has been completely proved. The defendant appears to be nineteen or twenty years of age. She must, therefore, go back to the garden in order to serve out the term of her contract and deposit Rs. 50 as security. If she fails to furnish the security, she must undergo a month's rigorous imprisonment."

Poor woman that she is, Bimala has most probably failed to give security and has been cast into prison.

It should be noted that the Magistrate at one glance took the accused for a girl of nineteen or twenty, though other people present in Court thought her only fifteen or sixteen, and rejected even her prayer for a medical examination. It is thus that the officials at times indirectly help in the oppression of tea garden coolies.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

19. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 30th November complains

Water scarcity in the Faridpur district.

that water is absolutely unavailable within the five miles between Ramdia Bazar and Khanakul in the Faridpur district. There is an old silted up tank called the Chhawalgara tank to the south of the house of the Sarkar Babus of Bhar Ramdia. It would be doing a great benefit to the public if the authorities should re-excavate this tank.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 12th, 1899.

20. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th December complains that

Insanitary spots in the Mymensingh Municipality.

the two sides of the narrow lane between the house of Amrita Babu and the house of the two-and-a-half anna zamindars in Mymensingh are covered with jungle. The lane has become almost impassable on account of the offensive smell issuing from the ill-served side privies. It will be impossible for the

residents of that locality to preserve their health, if the nuisance complained of is not immediately removed by the Municipality.

The two sides of the Brahma Palli Lane to the south of the railway station being also covered with jungle, the lane has become impassable on account of the bad smell issuing from the filth and human evacuations. Last week three or four fatal cases of cholera occurred in this locality, and it is feared that cholera will break out in an epidemic form if the nuisance complained of is not at once removed. The Municipality is already aware of the bad sanitation of the place.

21. A correspondent complains in the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th December of the outbreak of fever in an epidemic form in the Faridpur district. Many are dying

Fever in the Faridpur district.

every day, and most of the deaths are due to want of proper treatment and diet. There are few competent medical practitioners in the villages, and the lives of the poor patients are, so to say, in the hands of quacks. A class of *badmashes* are also taking advantage of the ignorance of the poor villagers. They are giving out that they can cure all sorts of diseases if people offer *puja* to their gods. In the village Amgram a *chandal* is giving out that the god *Kalachand* has appeared in his house, and a patient can be cured if he can undergo fourteen plunges in an adjoining filthy tank and offer a *puja* of five annas to his god. A patient, who was under the treatment of a competent *kaviraj* and was on the way to recovery, preferred this treatment, and was carried home senseless after the sixth plunge and died shortly after. The District Magistrate of Faridpur ought to put down these *badmashes*.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

22. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 14th December has the following:—

The waterworks and water scarcity in Bhagalpur town.

We have great objection to waterworks and filtered water-supply. In the first place, filtered water is expensive. In the second place, it is a permanent burden on the ratepayers. It will be our great disaster if we have to depend upon foreigners even for our drinking water. That filtered water is not a blessing but a curse will be easily understood. Take the case of Bhagalpur. With the introduction of waterworks and filtered water-supply in that town, the wells have been filled up, and this has created water scarcity. The supply of filtered water is neither regular nor copious and cannot be depended upon. The Ganges now flows in a channel about four miles from the town. Tanks cannot be excavated in the hilly soil of Bhagalpur. The three lakhs of rupees which have been spent on the waterworks could have given the Bhagalpur public at least three hundred masonry wells, and this would have permanently removed the water scarcity in the town. But now the thirsty people are pumping the hydrants in vain; they are dry. But the water-rate is all the same being levied with strictness and regularity, and the ratepayers are selling off their domestic utensils to pay the municipal demand. Alas! where are the three lakhs of rupees gone! The Municipal Chairman, Babu Kirti Chandra Chatterji, is maintaining his reputation for efficiency by strictly realising the water-rates from the poor ratepayers, and the poor ratepayers are cursing their fate and the Municipal Chairman in turn.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

23. The *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 15th December complains that on the

Mr. Buckland's visit to the Kumarkhali Municipality.

occasion of his recent visit to Kumarkhali, Mr. Buckland did not shake hands with, or show any courtesy to the Local Municipal Commissioners who had come to receive him, or take any notice of the preparations which they had made for the purpose of according him a fitting reception. His visit lasted for about three hours, in the course of which he summoned the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the tax-daroga to his tent, and examined the municipal accounts there. The writer is informed that the gentlemen were kept standing and not even offered seats, and that they were addressed in rude language. The Municipal Commissioners are advised to resign their office, and to inform Government of the discourteous treatment which they received from Mr. Buckland.

HITAKARI,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

24. The same paper complains that the water of the *khal* between Khoksa and Amlabarhi, in the Nadia district, is being fouled

Fouling of water in a village in the Nadia district.

by fishermen, who steep branches of trees in the water, and otherwise dam it for catching fish. The

HITAKARI.

use of this foul water has led to an outbreak of cholera, and many are dying. It is hoped that the Subdivisional Officer of Kushtia will take steps to prevent the fouling of water.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Dec. 13th, 1899.

25. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] writes as follows:—

Mr. Buckland on the permanent settlement.

In his Annual Administration Report, Mr. Buckland attributes the frequent famines and scarcity in India, outside Bengal, to the absence of a permanent settlement of the land. In his opinion, if the permanent settlement be extended to other provinces of India, the frequency of famines and scarcity will be checked. If the permanent settlement is productive of so much good, has it been just or advisable to burden the permanently-settled estates with road and other cesses?

MEDINI BANDHAV.

26. The same paper quotes the following from the *Bengalee*:—

Alleged oppression of their raiyats by Messrs Watson and Company in Midnapore.

"The *Medini*, the local newspaper of Midnapore, has been calling attention in a series of articles to the differences between Messrs. Watson and Company and their tenants in the Midnapore district. The allegation is that the tenants are harassed by the underlings of Messrs. Watson and Company by the institution of civil suits and by criminal prosecutions, the object being to compel the tenants to submit to enhanced rents. It is remarkable that every civil suit for enhanced rent which has been instituted has been dismissed, and in one or two cases the Munsifs have made strong comments upon the proceedings of the Company's servants. Surely the Government ought to come to the rescue of the tenants. We appeal with confidence to Sir John Woodburn, whose sympathies with the poor are so well-known. The matter, we are glad to learn, is being enquired into by Government."

The writer thus comments on the above:—

We have only to add that the enquiry proposed by our contemporary should be entrusted to a highly placed independent official. Sir John Woodburn has not yet paid a visit to Midnapore. If His Honour be kind enough to favour this town with a visit, he should himself enquire into the complaint.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

27. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 30th November complains

A bad road in Faridpur.

that the road between Bhar Ramdia and Ramdia Bazar, in the Faridpur district, is very ill constructed. The earthwork on the two sides of the bridges has been washed away, and the bridges are, therefore, surrounded by water. The bridges are apparently made of *jika* wood. One wonders how the overseer passed the bill of the contractor who made this road. The District Board authorities ought to make an enquiry into the matter, and compel either the contractor or the overseer to refund the money spent on the construction of this road.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 12th, 1899.

28. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th December

A road in the Mymensingh district.

says that the manner in which the approaches to the bridges in the Rangamatiya jungle on the Mymensingh-Fulbaria road are repaired with earth every year serves no useful purpose, as the earth is washed away at the very commencement of the rainy season, leaving the bridges standing at a high level above the road. The money which is spent on such repairs is, therefore, only wasted. The District Board should take up the work this year in a manner which would make the road really useful to the public.

The people of Balla and Bhandeswar hât will be greatly benefited if a branch of the above road is constructed from Birbasinda to the former village, passing through Bhandeswar hât. Balla contains a large number of rich traders.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Dec. 13th, 1899.

29. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 13th December

A bad road in the Murshidabad district.

complains of the bad condition of the road from Kandi to Panchthupi in the Murshidabad district. There are no culverts or bridges on this road, and

the road, therefore, becomes almost impassable during the rains. The wheel traffic on this road is rather heavy, and yet the District Board does not care to keep it in good condition. The authorities think that their duty is done by periodically repairing only those roads which are likely to be visited by high officials.

30. A correspondent, writing in the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 13th December complains of want of facility of communication with Jajpur, a subdivision of the Cuttack district. Jajpur is a place of pilgrimage and the head-quarters of an important subdivision. But the railway station is at a distance of 15 or 16 miles from the town. If the authorities of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway open a branch line to Jajpur, they will remove a great inconvenience of a large number of people.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Dec. 13th, 1899.

31. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 15th December complains that the Faridpur station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway is not lighted after dark and consequently passengers and especially female passengers, are greatly inconvenienced.

SANJAY,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

(h)—General.

32. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th December has the following:—
The Bengal Chief Secretaryship. Mr. Bolton, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, is going home on furlough, and it is said that Mr. Bourdillon will officiate for him. Judging from his conduct in the Narsingh case, it might be said that if Mr. Bourdillon officiates as the Chief Secretary, the high-handed executive officers will be encouraged, and independent and just officers like Mr. Pennell will fare badly. Mr. Pennell is an M.A. of the Oxford University, and stood first in the Civil Service Examination of his year. In the Chapra case he maintained the prestige of his high education and national independence. But through civilian conspiracy he was punished instead of being rewarded. Mr. Forbes is another candidate for the Officiating Chief Secretaryship. Mr. Bourdillon has been found out, but the public will have no cause for fear if Mr. Forbes is made Officiating Chief Secretary.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

33. The same paper has the following:—
The case of Babu Jatindra Nath Ray. Babu Jatindra Nath Ray has twice passed the Civil Service Examination. It is said that there is not a severer test than this examination. Can a man of weak constitution pass such a severe test? Can a man, who is so weak and is suffering from such a severe constitutional disease that he is not fit to bear the pressure of official work, pass such a stiff examination not once but twice? Babu Jatindra Nath Ray by his repeated success in this examination has proved that not even the severest pressure of work will tell upon his health. No amount of official work demands so much labour as that which is required in preparing for this examination. Why then is Babu Jatindra Nath considered unfit for Government service? Lord Curzon is a man of genius and is the fittest person to appreciate genius in others. Will injustice be done to a young man of genius during his rule? It is true that he has no power to interfere with the decision of the Civil Service Examiners, but we hope that the Secretary of State will not reject any just request on behalf of Babu Jatindra Nath if such a request comes from him. We appeal to Lord Curzon for justice. In the opinion of some distinguished physicians, Babu Jatindra Nath is not a man of shattered health or diseased constitution. Is it then right to blight the future prospects of an intelligent young man in this way?

SANJIVANI.

34. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 15th December writes as follows with reference to the compensation paid by the Government to Mr. Maxwell, an employé of the Port Commissioners, and a native clerk, for injuries received during the plague scare, last year:—

SAMAY,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

Rs. 400 has been paid to a European from the public exchequer, because some ruffians, labouring under a wrong impression, thrashed him during the plague scare. India must, therefore, provide for all unprovided Europeans without distinction. Henceforward let any and every European assaulted by

a native ruffian be paid compensation from the public exchequer, and let a scale be fixed for such compensation.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

35. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 15th December has the following:—

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Delawar
Hossein Ahmed.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Delawar Hossein Ahmed, B.A., served with great credit and efficiency as a Deputy Magistrate for thirty-six years, and was promoted to the Inspector-Generalship of Registration as a reward for his able and faithful services. In this responsible post the Khan Bahadur has proved a popular and efficient public officer, and the Government has granted him an extension of service for five years. It is said that he will retire in June next when his five years' extension will be over. The Musalman community of Bengal will be gratified if the Government grants the Maulvi extension of service for a few years more. Such a procedure will not be unprecedented. Rai Durgagati Banerji, Bahadur, was granted an extension of service for seven years, and has been granted yet another year's extension in consideration of his excellent and faithful services. We hope that Khan Bahadur Maulvi Delawar Hossein, who is the first Musalman graduate and who has risen so high in the public service by his ability and efficiency, will receive a similar favour at the hands of the Government.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

36. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th December writes as follows:—

The plague in Calcutta.

The natives fail to discover any signs of the plague in Calcutta, but not so the Europeans, in whose opinion plague germs have not yet disappeared from the town. We wrote some time ago, that if there had been any real plague in Calcutta, there would no doubt have been some plague patients in the hospitals. The plague officers have taken the cue from us, and sent up four patients as plague patients to one of the hospitals. It is said that the hospital authorities have declared these cases as genuine cases of plague. It is also said that some European doctors have treated some plague patients. We do not know the names of these doctors nor do we know the name of the hospital to which plague patients are said to have been sent. The native medical practitioners who treat native patient have not found any plague patient. Few natives are treated by European doctors, and if they have discovered any plague patients, it must have been among European patients. The thing is that we shall have to pay the plague officers for a further period. The officials who have accompanied Lord Curzon down to the plains have, following His Excellency's example, got themselves inoculated. The natives may very well laugh at the panic into which they have been thrown.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

37. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th December, takes exception to the revised rules for the election of Additional Members to the Bengal Legislative Council. The

The revised election rules.

Bengal municipalities had, according to the old rules, the power of electing two members by turn. Now they will have the power of electing only one. Under the Indian Councils Act, of the ten non-official members, at least seven should be elected. At present the Trades Association has the power to elect a member in addition to the seven who are elected by other bodies. The remaining two are nominated by Government. The Government would not have done any harm to the Administration, if in order to give the zamindars the power of electing a member, it had not curtailed the power of the municipalities, but had curtailed its own power to nominate Additional Members to the Council. The official members are always in the majority in the Council, and have never the chance of being defeated by the non-official members. Why then this injustice? According to the old rules, the municipalities of a Division got the chance of electing a member every four years, but now they will get that chance every eight years. It would have been better to abolish such an elective system as this.

HITAVADI
Dec. 15th, 1899.

38. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th December writes as follows:—

The new election rules.

According to the new rules for the election of Additional Members for the Bengal Legislative Council, the zamindars will have the power to elect a member for nomination to

that Council. It cannot be said that this arrangement will satisfy the zamindars, for the power which has been given them is not commensurate to their importance or stake in the country. We have nothing to complain of in this new privilege conferred on the zamindars, but we are sorry that the Bengal municipalities will no longer have power to elect two members. Sir John Woodburn is known to be a sympathetic and liberal-minded ruler, and it is a pity that during his rule the elective system should be circumscribed instead of being extended. The Calcutta Municipal Act, an educational scheme so inimical to high education, and the curtailment of the power of election—will all these reflect credit on Sir John Woodburn's rule?

39. The same paper is glad that Rai Bipin Krishna Basu Bahadur has been nominated to the Supreme Legislative Council. It is the public impression that the Rai Bahadur will discharge his duty with greater efficiency than even Mr. Chitnavis. Rai Bipin Krishna Basu Bahadur's election has given the public great satisfaction.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 15th, 1899.

40. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th December has the following:—

BANKURA DARPAN,
Dec. 16th, 1899.

The Assam Labour and Emigration Bill.

Many had thought that some improvement would be effected in the deplorable condition of the coolies by the passing of the Assam Emigration Bill. Mr. Cotton's connection with the measure led us to hope that at least one of the provisions of the Bill, namely, that relating to the raising of the wages of the coolies by one rupee, would be passed. The coolies would have considered themselves fortunate enough if the wages of male coolies had been, as proposed, made Rs. 6 and those of female coolies Rs. 5. But we hear that, instead of raising the wages of the coolies, it has been decided to reduce the rates of their remuneration, and male coolies will in future get Rs. 3-8 and female coolies Rs. 3 as their wages. It is no wonder that anything threatening the interest of the planters should evoke a protest from them. But we know that the Government is the *ma-bap* of the coolies. We have nothing more to say.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

41. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 12th, 1899.

The condition of the middle class in the Burdwan Division.

The Annual Administration Report of the Burdwan Division for the year 1898-99 has the following with reference to the condition of the middle class in that Division:—

"There is hardly any hope of a permanent amelioration in their circumstances so long as new openings are not provided for them in manufactures, arts or trades by the adoption of a sound and thorough scheme of technical education. We must mention, however, the existence, of a strong disinclination encouraged by the present educational system, on the part of the aforesaid class, really to utilise such a scheme, which is opposed to all their traditions and training, and pressure in the way of hard times will have to be considerably increased before the *bhadralok* will freely adopt commercial and professional pursuits other than law or medicine."

We fully agree with the Commissioner. Medicine and law cannot provide for the whole country. There are so many doctors and pleaders, nowadays, that those professions are no longer paying. Still parents give their children University education. If with the money which is spent on their education the boys are induced to take to some trade or profession, they are sure to earn an easy livelihood. We admit the necessity for technical education, but we ask what arrangements have the Government made for giving that education? In the technical schools, which have been opened in different parts of the country, only the business of carpenter and blacksmith is taught. What good will it do to the country if you increase the number of carpenters and blacksmiths and thereby overcrowd their professions? Let that kind of technical education which has improved arts and manufactures in Europe be introduced in this country.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

42. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 14th December has the following:—

The Hindus and Musalmans
of India.

Hindus and Musalmans are natives of India. Many Hindus have in course of time been converted to Muhammadanism, and it is with the Hindus that the Musalmans are most closely connected. During the Musalman rule Hindus were appointed as Prime Ministers, Finance Ministers, Commanders-in-Chief, and Judges. They were trusted Councillors, and, whether in the Council Chamber at Delhi or in a province as its Governor, they transacted business efficiently and systematically. Even in these days Hindu employes are held in esteem by Musalman zamindars.

To use a metaphor, if the Musalman is the stick, the Hindu is the right hand to hold it, if the Musalman is the flower, the Hindu is the scent that perfumes it. There was oppression during the Musalman rule, but that oppression was confined to a few rulers. There were hundreds of Musalman rulers who were impartial enough to guard both Hindu and Musalman interests. The Musalmans are well-known for their charity and they know how to enjoy. They are large-hearted and hospitable. The Musalman rulers made many gifts of land. Education and medical treatment were cheap, and the administration of justice was not a costly affair. During famine and scarcity the suffering multitude were liberally helped by the Government. The Hindu still gratefully remembers the Musalman rule. To-day Hindus and Musalmans have been placed on the same footing. They are now bound together by the same tie and are sailing in the same boat. Even now Hindus and Musalmans are justly and impartially treated in the Independent and Tributary Native States. The treatment which was accorded to the daughter of the late Nawab of Oudh was accorded to ladies in the families of many Hindu Chiefs. It was a Hindu newspaper which incurred great trouble and expense in making Sir Lepel Griffin's ill-treatment of the Begum of Bhopal public. The Hindu public always sympathise with the sufferings of Musalman Nawabs and Begams.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

43. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 14th December has the following:—

The Congress.

Pay a visit to the leading and influential politicians of Calcutta, say a few words to them, and hear their replies, and what will be the impression you will carry away? You will get the impression that nobody can count another as his own, that everyone is of the fullest measure and full of self-importance, and that every man among them is a *pir*. No one is found yielding enough to mix with another, no one follows or is attached to another, no one is an object of respect to another, no one trusts another. That, in spite of this, you occasionally see all of them come together at any particular meeting is only because self-interest or whim leads them to do so. There is interest in advertising one's good name and acquirements, and there is also whim, which is of various kinds.

The truth of the matter is, we are unable to share any good thing with others. So voracious is our appetite that we cannot support our dependants. If we do not help others in their weal and woe, if we do not realise to ourselves the poverty and troubles of our dependants, why should they pay heed to our words, or bring themselves into trouble for our sake? We have heard of people in former days who, though they followed the profession of dacoits, yet founded villages, and caused tanks to be dug and temples and shrines to be erected, that is to say, those people did not devote their ill-gotten gains wholly and solely to their own use, but gave some part thereof away to their fellow countrymen and became their protectors. Consequently, dacoits and forgers though they were, they yet had their gangs, their own men, and they gave orders and there were men to obey those orders, while we who have taken the vow of promoting our country's welfare, a vow, that is, which is the highest duty of man as it is undoubtedly the highest development to which he can aspire, can never bring ourselves to act or deliberate in concert. The reason is, we are extremely selfish, and not only that, we are also extremely fond of luxury. Our heart is always set on the things that contribute to our physical comfort and luxury. The wife is highly prized, because our domestic happiness depends principally upon her. The son is fondly cherished, for it is in him that we find satisfaction and delight. That is all. There is nobody else to feel concerned about.

Father, mother, friends, and relatives—these are a burden, a troublesome burden—the enemy of domestic happiness.

44. The same paper writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon at Brindaban.

Lord Curzon paid a visit to Brindaban. He went to the sacred groves and inspected the sacred temples. He said that he would not grudge any reasonable expense for the repair of the old temples. This assurance will please every Hindu. Brindaban—the pleasant Brindaban of old—is now malaria-stricken. We shall feel grateful to Lord Curzon if he makes some arrangement for the improvement of its sanitation with the same eagerness with which he has promised to preserve its temples.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 14th, 1899.

45. The *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 15th December writes as follows:—

The Indian National Congress.

The Indian National Congress is no doubt a great undertaking, but it has not yet appealed to our heart, we have not yet been able to appreciate its greatness. The next sitting of the Congress is drawing near. A few days more and the Congress will be sitting in Lucknow, but what preparations are we making for the approaching Congress session? The villages know nothing about it, and even the large districts are silent. This is the case everywhere. It is only a week before the Congress that signs of political activity become visible among us. It is then that we rise from our sleep and elect a few delegates who try to distinguish themselves according to their ability on the Congress platform. Congress over, the eloquent harangues and the inspiring words are forgotten. The delegates return, and there is a relapse into inactivity, lethargy and sleep for another year.

HITAKARI,
Dec. 5th, 1899.

46. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th December has the following with

The Bengal Librarian on Bengali literature in 1898.

reference to the remarks made by Pandit Rajendra Chandra Sastri, Bengal Librarian, on the progress of Bengali literature during the year 1898 in his report on the Bengal Library for that year:—

PRATIVASI,
Dec. 18th, 1899.

These remarks betray a want of insight. Rajendra Babu ought to have calmly considered how far he was justified in arriving at a conclusion about the character of Bengali literature without carefully studying its progress, and how far advisable it has been on his part to create an erroneous impression in the mind of the public and the Government. We cannot praise the observing faculty of the man who, from the appearance of a single journal intended for *zanana* ladies, jumps to the conclusion that "female education is penetrating into quarters, which were formerly impervious to its influence." In this country, the mere production of a commodity is not necessarily a proof that there is a demand for it. The law of demand and supply does not apply to this country, at least in the case of literature. The starting of a journal for *zanana* ladies is no indication of its popularity or circulation. Most probably it owes its existence to the literary taste and zeal of an educated Indian lady. We also think in the same way about Rajendra Babu's statement that "the value of instruction by means of object-lessons is becoming more and more appreciated." There is no mature and well-formed opinion on any subject among the educated community in this country, and if there is such opinion, the public are not guided by it. As for illustrations in text-books, they are the result of competition and are no indication of the appreciation of the value of a better method of instruction than the one in existence. If our educated young men had been really earnest about bettering the existing method of instruction, some of them would no doubt have cut off their connection with the Calcutta University. But such harmless remarks will do the public no great harm. We are very well acquainted with the progress of the country in the literary or any other direction. It is, in fact, a matter of every day observation, and no erroneous remarks about it can mislead us.

But this cannot be said of the concluding portion of Rajendra Babu's remarks. In his opinion, "there is abroad a spirit of disaffection towards the ruling class, which finds expression in poetry, drama, fiction, and other departments of Bengali literature, especially the Bengali journals." In these remarks Rajendra Babu has betrayed great indiscretion. If a public officer, who is entrusted with the sacred duty of acquainting the Government with the trend of public opinion as reflected in the current literature of the country, be

so indiscreet and hasty in his conclusion, the whole country may suffer for his fault. In our comments upon the concluding portion of Rajendra Babu's remarks, we shall try to draw a true picture of the present relation between the rulers and the ruled in this country.

It is not at all true that we are not well-wishers of the Government, that we do not approve or appreciate the existing administrative policy, or that we are disaffected or disrespectful towards the ruling class as a whole. Why, Rajendra Babu himself admits that we are more and more appreciating the benefits of British rule. Why should we then desire its overthrow or be inimically disposed towards it? There is, however, no need of concealing the fact that most of the European officials are becoming more and more haughty, highhanded, and uncharitable, that they are offended by our criticisms and do not like Indians to compete with Europeans. It is an incontrovertible truth that we entertain no feeling of disrespect towards the officials beyond what is displayed in our criticism of official conduct and bad official measures. If the European officials cease to be haughty, high-handed and narrow-minded, they will again become objects of our reverence. Not all officials are even now objects of disrespect. Are not rulers like Sir Antony MacDennell, Mr. Cotton and Sir John Woodburn revered by us?

Most civilians hate natives, but there are some, who, by their conduct, command our respect and admiration. Just as the magnet attracts the iron, so does merit attract admiration. Kindness, sympathy, justice, and impartiality cannot fail to claim respect and reverence. The almost universal official narrow-mindedness has no doubt become a mark for public criticism. But the feeling which this official narrow-mindedness creates is a feeling of regret. Let the official heart be broadened by many-sided sympathy, let official narrow-mindedness disappear, and this feeling of regret will give place to a feeling of satisfaction and relief. There is no denying the existence of this deep-rooted official narrow-mindedness. It was admitted by many Englishmen and English newspapers during the Municipal Bill controversy. Official conspiracy to screen official offenders has become the object even of official criticism, and Lord Curzon has admitted that grave injustice was done in the Rangoon outrage case. Repeated proofs of official uncharitableness have, no doubt, pained the public mind, and the discontent of the public is finding expression in the press. But this passing phase of public opinion should not be made a subject of criticism. Uncalled-for and unwarranted remarks like those of Babu Rajendra Chandra Sastri are of no use to the Government, while they may do incalculable mischief to the country.

A constant and careful reader of native newspapers must have observed that they labour under the most cowardly fear of offending the officials, and that, whenever they become conscious of having strongly criticised their conduct, they try to counteract the effect of the criticism by abjectly flattering the officials whose conduct has been criticised. It is only Rajendra Babu who knows of the existence of a seditious tone in Bengali novels, poems, and dramas. We have never come across seditious novels, poems, and dramas. In the Librarian's opinion, the chief source of sedition and disaffection is the vernacular press. The vernacular newspapers are full of obscene and defamatory writing. The large number of defamation cases instituted in the law courts is a proof of this. To tell the truth, the vernacular press is producing a very coarse kind of literature. Its taste is abominable. The partisan newspaper spirit which once became the object of Mathew Arnold's criticism is now rampant in the vernacular press, and it ought to be the object of every right-thinking person to improve the tone of the native newspapers. The Bengal Librarian, however, has nothing to say about this. He has, with the aid of a psychological microscope, discovered what he considers to be a new truth, namely, the disaffection of the people towards the officials—a feeling of discontent for which only the narrow-mindedness of the officials themselves is responsible.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 29th, 1899.

47. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 29th November is sorry to notice that famine has already made its appearance in Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, and Sambalpur, and that its effects will be visible after two weeks. The writer advises

Famine in Orissa.

the authorities to take early steps to relieve distress whenever that may be found necessary, and exhorts the charitable public to help the authorities in their work.

48. The same paper regrets to learn that small-pox is raging virulently in the Kamarda pargana of the Balasore district, and that as many as 30 souls are dead or are dying. The writer observes that the District Officer must take immediate steps to remove or mitigate the evil by the introduction of vaccination at an early date.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 29th, 1899.

49. In alluding to three cholera cases in the boarding, attached to the Cuttack Training School, that ended fatally, the *Utkaldipika* (Cuttack) of the 9th December observes that more attention should be paid in future to the inspection of the articles of food and drinking-water consumed by the inmates of the boarding-house.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 9th, 1899.

50. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 29th November has reason to believe that the *Chaukidari* Act, lately introduced into the Balasore district, is creating great uneasiness in the minds of the village people. The writer advises the District Magistrate to pay personal attention to the subject of the appointment of the members of the village *panchayat* and not depend exclusively upon the report of the police, as the posts carry some responsibility with them, and as he has found instances of wrong men being appointed to the same.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 29th, 1899.

51. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 30th November is glad to find that the princely donation of Mr. Jamsetji N. Tata has enabled the Government of India to establish the much-desired "Indian University of Research," whereby the distinguished graduates of the Indian Universities will be able to secure a post-graduate education, and thereby help the industrial development, of which India stands in much need. The writer hopes that the Government, as well as the public, will combine to make the University a successful institution.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

52. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th December is of opinion that the working of the rules to stamp out the plague is more dreadful and distasteful than the plague itself, and quotes, to illustrate his views, an instance wherein the clothes, bedding, and other household furniture of a poor resident of Calcutta were burnt without the payment of a single pice as compensation to his relatives, though the man, while living, was never suspected to have contracted the infectious disease.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 9th, 1899.

53. The same paper warns the Rajas and Chieftains of India against undertaking pilgrimages to different shrines and holy places without sufficient money with them, and quotes the case of the Maharaja of Sitamur in the Central Provinces, who died broken-hearted, after spending a large amount of money on pilgrimages, which has been found to have been far beyond his means, and which his estate can hardly meet.

54. Referring to the visit of the Director of Public Instruction to Cuttack, the same paper observes that the Puri and Balasore Schools should not have been left uninspected, and this is the more to be regretted as railway has increased the speed of all inspecting officers in Orissa.

UTKALDIPIKA.

55. The death of Raja Badyanath Pandit Bahadur is mourned by all the native papers of Orissa, wherein an appreciative notice of his character is made. He was a god-fearing and educated zamindar, who was both loyal and patriotic, and whose services were at the disposal of both Government and the public. He was kind to his tenants and his charities were both public and private.

UTKALDIPIKA.

56. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th December is in favour of the periodical examination of tauzi accounts in district collectorates by experts of known ability, and is therefore glad to learn that such an establishment will be entertained under the direct supervision of the Accountant-General of Bengal.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 9th, 1899.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 9th, 1899.

57. The same paper recommends the wise advice given by His Excellency the the Viceroy in his speeches in different Native States to all Rajas and Maharajas, and hopes that they will profit by it.

UTKALDIPIKA,

Lord Curzon's advice to the Native Chiefs.

58. The same paper regrets to learn that the stationmaster of Soro in the Cuttack-Calcutta line of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway assaulted a passenger because he knew not certain railway rules, and observes that the Traffic Superintendent must take immediate steps to put down violent and indiscreet conduct on the part of his subordinates with a high hand.

UTKALDIPIKA.

A proposed change in *latbandi* and other dates.

59. Referring to the proposal of the Board of Revenue to change the dates of *latbandi* and the *kists* payable on the dates, the same paper observes that the Hon'ble Board before undertaking such a work should move the Government to make better laws for the realisation of rents from their tenants by the landlords. Under section 53 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, rents are payable by quarterly instalments and unless the quarter be over rent cannot be demanded. Under the old rent Act, rent is payable after the end of the month of *Jaistha*. If tenants do not pay landlords must have sufficient time to sue them in rent court, obtain a decree and execute the decree, which last is a very difficult work. Taking all these facts into consideration, the present dates of *latbandi* and the *kists* payable on those dates are more convenient. As both the landlords and tenants have been accustomed to the existing order of things, it is not at all advisable to introduce a change without taking steps to remedy the defects that exist in the present system. The best system according to the writer, is that which will enable the landlord to realise his dues in full either with or without the assistance of the Revenue Courts and then pay the same into the Government Treasury. It will be very hard if Government resolves to realise revenue, which the landlord has not realised from his tenants. The proposal to make small zamindars pay sixteen anna revenue at the April *kist* is also bad. They are poor landlords and, therefore, not in a position to realise sixteen anna rent from their tenants by that time. It would be better to make them pay sixteen anna revenue at the November *kist*.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 23rd December, 1899.